

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following rewritten paragraph:

Prior art patents relating to strapping devices include U.S. Patents Nos. ~~4,777,554~~ 4,577,554, 3,295,436, 2,922,359, and 4,817,519.

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following rewritten paragraph:

The sensor 334 is capable of detecting the presence of the metallic actuator. This causes a signal to be sent to the assembly 52 to stop the advancement of wire, and to reverse the operation thereof. This begins tensioning the wire section 50a extending around track 44 to thereby draw the sections 50a and 50b taut. During the course of this reverse movement, the component 292 is moved rightwardly (Fig. 22) because of the engagement with the wire until block 328 is encountered. Further reverse wire movement draws the end 292 of component 290 into tight gripping engagement with the wire, pressing the latter against block 191. To insure the wire is gripped, cylinder 340 is actuated. The rod 342 thus engages actuator 294 in order to pivot the component 290 counterclockwise about axis pin 338, extending spring ~~334~~ 344. The final wire-gripping position is illustrated in Fig. 22. This reverse movement of the assembly 52 continues until an appropriate tension is created in the wire, which is sensed by a sensor (not shown) associated with assembly 52. At this point the operation of the assembly 52 entirely terminates, and a signal is sent to drive assembly 196.